

From: N A Armstrong

Subject: **The missing tapes and the restoration**

Date: 10 June 2010 at 1:24:07 am AEST

To: John Sarkissian, Colin Mackellar, Richard Nafzger, Bill Wood, Mrs Lebar

Hello John, Colin, Dick, Bill, and Mrs. Lebar,

Colin has been keeping me informed on the status of the tape search for a couple of years and last fall Dick sent me the link so I could watch the Press Conference that Dick, Stan, and Mike Inchalik (of Lowry Digital) held on the restoration project in conjunction with the Apollo 11 40th anniversary last summer.

So it's way past time for congratulations to all the team who was involved in the frustration of the tape search and the innovation and creativity of the multi faceted project of producing the best quality videotape from the best sources available, and all in time for the 40th anniversary.

When I released the MESA lock from the handle on the porch to allow the equipment shelf to drop down to allow the camera to actually see outside its storage area, and we sent power to the camera, I asked Mission Control if they were getting a picture. They replied that they were but it was upside down (a problem that was quickly corrected). No one was more surprised than I.

In all the preflight tests in which both the little image orthicon camera and I were simultaneously involved, I had never seen a picture ! And that was when the camera and the television receiver were in the same building ! So you can see why I was genuinely amazed when an actual picture was received in Houston via the very circuitous, complex, multi frequency route from Mare Tranquilitatis via Australia.

Your restored video is now a valuable contribution to space exploration and space communication history. I enjoyed a certain satisfaction with being a part of the cutting edge of engineering, technology, and exploration and being referenced in school classes in science and current events. But I admit a certain uneasiness about referenced in history classes.

Thanks for all you did beyond the call of duty. Our grandchildren and their grandchildren will benefit. When Jules Verne, H. G. Wells, and the other authors wrote about humans first visiting the Moon, not one ever foresaw the lunar explorers being able to communicate with their friends and relatives back on Earth, and CERTAINLY none ever even conceptualized the possibility of earthlings being able share what the lunar explorers saw in essentially real time. So what you did was more remarkable than science fiction. And I often point that out to audiences around the world. It is usually something that they never recognized.

So congratulations, and sincere thanks.

Neil Armstrong
Commander
Apollo 11